

REMARKS

In the above-identified Office Action, the Examiner has required restriction between the claims of:

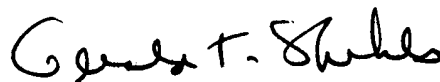
Group I - Claims 1-3, and

Group II - Claims 4-9.

Applicant hereby elects for prosecution, Group I, Claims 1-3 with traverse.

Applicant believes the restriction requirement to be improper insofar as the claims of the apparatus and the claims of the method are so interlinked as to require that searching be conducted in identical classes. Accordingly, Applicant believes that the search and examination of the entire application can be made without serious burden, even though Applicant agrees that the two enumerated inventions may be independent and distinct. Therefore, pursuant to MPEP Section 803, the Examiner should examine the entire application on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,
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